

August 28

Local Reconstruction Snapshots

- There were five school projects completed in Najaf City valued at \$112k. An additional project valued at \$466k has been approved to provide desks for the City Schools. Similar projects will also improve the engineering school at Kufa University, and the Vocational Training Center will be renovated in a project aimed at increasing the student capacity and curriculum of the center. Follow on contracts will provide the school with new instructional materials, and machinery.
- Atmospherics in and around Ramadi projects continue to remain positive with the improvement of security. The general population and local leaders welcome the Ramadi “surge” projects – primarily the power generation and water treatment plant. Overall atmospherics are good on the rural compact water treatment plants projects.

Transportation

Baghdad International Airport (BIAP) Security

Biometric enrollment and badging of airport terminal staff continues. Over 4,627 employees have been enrolled to date. Three additional enrollment stations have been added to the operation along with additional staff to expedite the completion of the re-badging of the airport community. It is estimated that over 6,000 individuals will ultimately be enrolled. The target completion date is mid-September, 2007.

Basra Airport

No change from last report. The special advisor to the Prime Minister visited Basra International Airport. The advisor was the first high official to personally meet with the Basra Airport staff. The meeting provided progress reports on commercial growth and the need to provide stable power, security, and a detailed budget.

Baghdad International Airport (BIAP) Area Control Center (ACC)

No change from last report. The final stages of preparation for the opening of Baghdad Area Control Center have begun. Personnel with Washington Consulting Group, the new training contractor, have been facility-rated at Balad and returned to Baghdad to write radar simulation problems and certify the rest of the staff.

Letter of Agreement (LOA) between Iraq/Iran

No change from last report. The travel by ICAA officials to Iran to sign an LOA enabling direct flights between Iran and Iraq, as well as increased over flight traffic to points outside the country, has been postponed for the next two weeks. A request is in to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to process the visa paperwork.

ROADS & BRIDGES

Ministry of Construction and Housing (MoCH) Projects and Programs

MoCH has submitted a budget for 2007 and a list of bridges that are part of the MoCH Roads and Bridges construction program. The Ministry of Construction and Housing will continue highway construction with a program in widening (dual highway construction) existing roadways and new bridge construction.

Funds for these projects will be provided by the Government of Iraq. Some of these bridges have been referred to the MoCH to be conducted through their program and with their funding. The bridge over the Grand Canal at Taji was destroyed by a VBIED. Two Mabey-Johnson (MBJ) temporary bridges have been emplaced and traffic movement over the Grand Canal has been restored

August 21

Local Reconstruction Snapshots

- Construction on the GRD Central Courthouse in the Al Karkh district of Baghdad was completed 12 August. This Regional Courthouse will serve approximately 1.2 million people in Kadhamiyah, Karkh and adjacent areas west of the Tigris River. The building has 4,000m² and is composed of two floors with 2,000 m² each. This structure is the first generic courthouse, which will serve as a model for all other new courthouse construction throughout Iraq.
- Work on the Zafraniya Trunk Sewage System in the Karadah district of Baghdad began 14 August. The contractor shall complete and construct an operating sewage pump station, sewage conveyance system and ancillary facility for the Amanat Baghdad Department of Sewers.
- A project to improve the security at Bayji Oil Refinery began 15 August in Salah ad Din Province. This project will provide material, equipment and labor to construct ten parking lots, five truck lanes, employee and visitors parking area and employee and visitors' reception building as well as the installation of lighting for these areas. Once complete, these improvements will help to increase the supplies of refined oil products to approximately 7 million people in the northern governorates of Iraq.



GRD Central Courthouse



Bayji Oil Refinery

Communication

Telecommunications Deal Reached

Under the Chair of Minister of Finance, Bayan Jabr, the Iraq mobile telecommunications auction was concluded at 0400, 20 August 2007. One license was awarded to each of three operators: Korek, based in Erbil, Kurdistan; AsiaCell based in Sulaymaniyah, Kurdistan, and MTC Atheer based in Baghdad and owned by MTC of Kuwait. The final bid for each license is \$1.25 billion. In addition each operator has agreed to pay 18.5% of top end monthly revenue for 15 years. A corporate tax of 15% on net profits will also be assessed. There will be an annual .25% tax for universal service, and .25% for number portability.

Turkcell pulled out at \$950 million and Iraqna, the local Baghdad operator, pulled out at \$1.15 billion.

August 14

Local Reconstruction Snapshots

- Project Engineers escorted by a civil affairs team conducted the final inspection of the Zangora 1 Compact Rural Water Treatment Plant. The inspection showed construction of the plant is complete with only site clean up to be performed. The WTP provides up to 200 cubic-meters of water per hour using a “slow sand filtration” system, and provides clean drinking water to approximately 24,000 Iraqi citizens. The project also included the installation of fire hydrants, communal taps, and over 14,000 meters of pipe.
- Al Armooshiya Type A PHC in Salah ad Din Province was completed on August 8th. This project provides a major primary health clinic facility in

the area west of Samarra. Concurrent with this project includes other contracts that have provided medical supplies and consumables, building furniture, medical equipment, and training. When this clinic is staffed and operational, it will have the ability to serve approximately 35,000 residents of the Al Armooshiya and Samarra communities.



Zangora 1 Compact Rural Water Treatment Plant

Transportation

Baghdad International Airport Security

Biometric enrollment and badging of airport terminal staff continues. Over 4,233 employees have been enrolled to date.

On the Job Training – Air Traffic Control

A full training plan has been developed for BIAP Tower and the Baghdad Area Control Center. This plan was developed collaboratively by Iraqi and American aviation officials, as well as WCG, the training contractor. The next step is to re-address the plans for Basrah Tower and develop future timelines for Mosul.

Iraqi Airways (IAW) Restructure Contract

Meetings were held this week with _____ the GOI. The first one with AIRXL _____ reviewed the evaluation and restructuring plans of Iraqi Airways. The second meeting with the aviation committee discussed Kuwaiti lawsuits. Legal advisors from the Ministries of Transportation, Finance and Justice were present.

Basra Airport

The special Advisor to the Prime Minister visited Basra International Airport, marking the first high official to personally meet with the Basra Airport staff. The meeting provided progress reports on commercial growth and the need to provide stable power, compliant security, and a detailed budget. All parties are working to create a budget reflective of the costs to operate and repair the infrastructure at the site.

ROADS & BRIDGES

Ministry of Construction and Housing (MoCH) Projects

Coalition Forces are working with the MoCH to develop a list of bridges for upcoming repairs, provided MoCH funding is available. Priorities are being evaluated for damaged bridges. In addition, the contractor for the Sarafiya Bridge reconstruction has quit the project because of the killing of the resident Engineer/Project Manager. A meeting with GRD was held to discuss the situation, and MoCH is now seeking immediate help to remove a main section of the bridge.

RAIL

Security Concerns

Cargo trains (non-HFO) are being stopped at Saboniya (north of Mosul) by Iraqi Army for security concerns, which have not been resolved by the IA.

PORTS

A meeting with the MoCH Minister discussed the construction of a new roadway to help resolve congestion problems at Umm Qasr Port, where trucks carrying cargo in and out of the port interfere with the city traffic.

Communication

GSM License Update

The Chairman of the Communications and Media Commission confirmed that the Global System for Mobile Communications licensing auction will be held in Amman in mid-August. It will be managed by Price Water House (PWC) London, and ITAO Communications will be present and submit daily summaries of the progress.

Services Committee Chairman to Visit DC

A Kurdish member of the Council of Representatives departs this week for a visit to Washington, DC, to discuss a variety of issues related to communications, as well as broader issues regarding Iraq's infrastructure. He will be accompanied by a representative of the ITAO Communications and IT office, and plans to meet with officials of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to seek their advice and recommendations on a proposed Iraqi Telecommunications Law. In addition, the representative plans to meet with energy department or electrical sector experts to seek advice on electricity privatization in Iraq.

August 7

Local Reconstruction Snapshots

- The Al Karkh Courthouse in Baghdad is 95% complete with an estimated completion in late August. This project includes the construction of a new

two-story regional court facility serving approximately 1.2 million residents. On July 25th a meeting was held at GRD between GRD S&J, GRC, and the Higher Judicial Council (HJC). HJC agreed to develop a punch list and turn it over to GRC. GRC will review all items on the punch list and turn over the facility to the HJC when complete.

- 35,000 Ninewa residents now receive medical and dental care from the completion of the Hai al Mansoor PHC in Mosul. The completed expansion of the Health Department building in Bahiq, Ninewa, provides office space for the Engineering and Maintenance branch of the Mosul Health Department.
- The completed repairs to four hangers and the construction of one hanger provide Al Asad Air Base with more space to conduct aircraft services.
- Residents of the Karkh district of Baghdad will benefit from reliable power from the completion of the 11kV electrical network distribution and feeder cable installation project.

Communications

Wireless Local Loop (Kurdistan)

Two wireless local loop (WLL) operators in Kurdistan have begun their network operations using CDMA technology. The Aria Net Company is licensed by the Ministry of Communications in Kurdistan to operate such networks in Irbil, Dahuk and Zach. They currently have a total of 200,000 customers who enjoy WLL phone and internet connection to their homes and offices within their regions. These WLL phones are gaining an increased customer base and satisfaction. The phones enjoy “roaming” with major GSM operators in Iraq and also “roam” to Iraqi telephone switches in Kurdistan and to other Iraqi ITPC land switches cities. They can also call internationally. There is also growing WLL phone and internet providers in Sulaymaniyah. The Media Tel Company has more than 50,000 customers in the Sulaymaniyah area. Media Tel has roaming agreements with the major companies in the region and Iraq.

Wireless Internet Irbil

Iraqi Kurdistan is enjoying rapidly growing wireless internet via wireless internet services provider (ISP).

Tareen Network is a rapidly growing ISP serving the city of Irbil and many regions outside Erbil to other cities in the Kurdish region. Tareen Network with a current customer base of more than 5,000, provides service via prepaid cards to access the internet from a number of locations in Irbil.